

Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0066621-02-0
Permittee Name and Address	SCHEPS DAIRY INC 1631 4th St, Almena, WI 54805
Permitted Facility Name and Address	SCHEPS DAIRY INC 1631 4th St Almena
Permit Term	September 01, 2025 to August 31, 2030
Discharge Location	Same as facility address
Receiving Water	Unnamed stream (WBIC 5005995) within the Hay River Watershed of the Lower Chippewa River Basin, and groundwaters of the state
Discharge Type	Existing

Animal Units					
Animal Type	Current AU		Proposed AU (Note: If all zeroes, expansions are not expected during permit term)		
	Mixed	Individual	Mixed	Individual	Date of Proposed Expansion
Dairy Calves (under 400 lbs.)	80	0	0	0	
Milking and Dry Cows	2608	2664	0	0	
Heifers (400 lbs. to 800 lbs.)	210	350	0	0	
Heifers (800 lbs. to 1200 lbs.)	585	532	0	0	
Total	3483	2664	0	0	

Facility Description

Scheps Dairy Inc is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) located in the Township of Almena, Barron County. Scheps Dairy consists of two production sites: the Main Dairy located at 1631 4th St., Almena, WI 54805 and the Heifer Site located at 1620 4th St., Almena, WI 54805. The operation is owned and operated by Dan and Ken Scheps, with a current herd size of 3,483 animal units (1,863 milking/dry cows, 882 heifers and 400 calves). There is no expansion planned over the upcoming permit term. Approximately 31 million gallons of liquid manure/process wastewater and 10,000 tons of solid manure are projected to be produced annually at the current herd size. Manure and process wastewater is stored in four (4) liquid waste storage facilities. The total usable storage capacity is approximately 23 million gallons or 270 days of storage capacity for liquid manure and at least 59 days for solid manure. Scheps Dairy owns or rents 3,436 acres of cropland, of which 3,335.7 acres are available for manure applications.

Substantial Compliance Determination

Enforcement During Last Permit:

1. None.

The facility had no required actions as part of an enforcement process.

Compliance During Last Permit:

- The facility submitted all Annual Reports that are due by January 31.
- The facility submitted all Annual NMP Updates that are due by March 31.
- Two production site inspection (September 12, 2022; August 30, 2024) did not find permit violations.
- One land application inspection (May 18, 2022) did not find permit violations.
- Three nutrient management plan field verifications (May 5, 2022; May 18, 2022; June 16, 2022) did not find permit violations.

This facility is considered in substantial compliance with their current permit.

After a desk top review of all compliance schedule items, and the site visits noted above; this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Compliance determination made by Todd Prill on May 23, 2025.

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)	
001	Old Pit (liquids) - Sample point 001 is for liquids from the Old Pit ((WSF 1). It is an in-ground, earthen berm, partial concrete and partial HDPE lined pit. The facility is located in the southern portion of the Main Dairy site between the New Pit to the east and South Freestall Barn to the west. It was built in 2007 in a rectangular shape with top dimensions of 255 feet wide by 445 feet long by 15 feet deep and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) of approximately 8,343,856 gallons (2025 calculation). The Barron County Land Conservation Department designed and approved plans and specifications for construction. The DNR has not requested an engineering evaluation. It accepts liquid manure from the North and Middle Freestall Barns and processed wastewater from the milking center after going through the Sand Trap structure and an underground transfer system. A concrete ramp on the southwest corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed. An agitation boat mixes liquids and solids prior to removal for direct land application in the spring, summer, and fall.	
002	New Pit (liquids) - Sample point 002 is for liquids from the New Pit (WSF 2). It is an in-ground, earthen berm, concrete lined pit. The facility is located in the eastern portion of the Main Dairy site to the east of the Old Pit and Feed Storage Area. It was built in 2017 in a rectangular shape with top dimensions of 260 feet wide by 555 feet long by 18 feet deep with 2:1 sloping sides and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) of approximately 12,541,881 gallons (2025 calculation). Plans and specifications for the structure were approved by the DNR on June 15, 2017, with as-built documentation provided by Outland	

Sample Point Designation For Animal Waste		
Sample Point Number	Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)	
	Design on April 2018. It accepts liquid manure from the South Freestall Barn through an underground transfer system after manure is processed in the Solids Separation Building. A concrete ramp on the southwest corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed. An agitation boat mixes liquids and solids prior to removal for direct land application in the spring, summer, and fall.	
003	Heifer Pit (liquids) - Sample point 003 is for liquids from the Heifer Pit (WSF 3). It is an in-ground, earthen berm, concrete lined pit. The facility is located in the western portion of the Heifer Site to the west of Heifer Freestall Barn. It was built in 2010 in a rectangular shape with top dimensions of 162 feet wide by 201 feet long by 15 feet deep with 3:1 sloping sides and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) of approximately 2,005,687 gallons (2025 calculation). Plans and specifications for the structure were approved by the DNR on July 8, 2010. It accepts liquid manure from the Heifer Freestall Barn through an underground transfer system. A concrete ramp on the northeast corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed. A drop in agitator mixes liquids and solids prior to removal for direct land application in the spring, summer, and fall.	
004	Bunker Leachate Pit (liquids) - Sample point 004 is for liquids from the Bunker Leachate Pit. It is a concrete lined in-ground pit located in the northeastern portion of the Main Dairy Site. It was built in 2017 in an oblong shape with top dimensions of 70 feet wide by 292 feet long by 12 feet deep with 2:1 sloping sides and an total volume capacity of 839,414 gallons (2025 calculation) and an estimated maximum operating level (MOL) for manure of approximately 147,568 gallons (2025 calculation) after accounting for feedpad runoff collection from the Feed Storage Area. Plans and specifications were approved by the DNR on June 15, 2017, with as-built documentation provided by Outland Design on April 2018. It accepts liquids from the Feed Storage Area through two-24 inch underground pipes. Liquids are removed with a pump for crop irrigation or transferred to the New Pit. A concrete ramp on the southeast corner of the pit allows for solids removal if needed.	
005	Misc. Solid Manure (solids) - Sample point 005 is for any miscellaneous waste solids directly land applied from the production area of the Main Dairy or Heifer Site. This includes calf hutch bedpack, heifer shed bedpack, sand settling lane solids, manure separator solids and any solids removed from the Old Pit, New Pit, and Heifer Pit. Representative samples shall be taken for each manure source when land application occurs.	
006	Feed Storage Area - Sample point 006 is for visual monitoring and inspection of the Feed Storage Area and associated runoff control system in the northern portion of the Main Dairy site. The feed storage surface area is estimated at 171,050 square feet. A 100% runoff collection system was built in 2017 according to plans and specifications approved by the DNR on June 15, 2017, with as-built documentation provided by Outland Design on April 2018. All surface runoff from the Feed Storage Area is directed to two-24 inch pipes located at floor level within the east wall. Leachate and runoff enter the pipes and gravity flow to a nearby Bunker Leachate Pit to the east.	
007	Manure Stacking Sites (solids) – Sample point 007 is for solid manure land applied from approved headland stacking sites. Representative samples shall be taken prior to land application. Stacks are defined as part of the production area and therefore subject to the discharge limitations of this permit. Weekly inspections of stack runoff controls are required and shall be recorded according to a monitoring program.	

1 Livestock Operations - Proposed Operation and Management

Production Area Discharge Limitations

Beginning on the effective date of the permit, the permittee may not discharge pollutants from the operation's production area (e.g., manure storage areas, outdoor animal lots, composting and leachate containment systems, milking center wastewater treatment/containment systems, raw material storage areas) to navigable waters, except in the event a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event (or greater) causes the discharge from a structure which is properly designed and maintained to contain a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event for this location as determined under s. NR 243.04. If an allowable discharge occurs from the production area, state water quality standards may not be exceeded.

Runoff Control

The permit requires control of contaminated runoff from all elements of the production area to prevent a discharge of pollutants to navigable waters in accordance with the Production Area Discharge Limitations and to comply with surface water quality standards and groundwater standards. Beginning on the effective date of this permit, (if needed) interim measures shall be implemented to prevent discharges of pollutants to navigable waters. In addition, permanent runoff control system(s) shall be designed, operated and maintained in accordance with the requirements found in USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. If any upgrading or modifications to runoff controls are necessary, formal engineering plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for approval.

Manure and Process Wastewater Storage

The permit requires the operation to have adequate storage for manure and process wastewater and that storage or containment facilities are designed, operated and maintained to prevent overflows and discharges to waters of the state. To prevent overflows, the permittee must maintain levels of materials in liquid storage or containment facilities at or below certain levels including a one-foot margin of safety that can never be exceeded. If any upgrading or modifications to the storage facilities are necessary, formal engineering plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for approval.

The permittee currently has approximately 270 days of storage for liquid manure based on 3,483 animal units. The permittee must maintain 180 days of storage, unless temporary reductions in required storage are approved by the Department.

Solid Manure Stacking

The operation has proposed to stack solid manure. All stacking of solid manure shall be done in accordance ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, which includes restrictions from NRCS Standard 313. Stacking of manure is part of the production area and is subject to the Production Area Discharge Limitations.

Ancillary Service and Storage Areas

The permittee shall take preventative maintenance actions and conduct visual inspections to minimize pollutant discharges from areas of the operation that are not part of the production area or land application areas. These areas are called ancillary service and storage areas and include access roads, shipping and receiving areas, maintenance areas, refuse piles and CAFO outdoor vegetated areas.

Nutrient Management

With 3,483 animal units from dairy animals, it is estimated that approximately 31,183,526 gallons of manure and process wastewater will be produced per year. The permittee owns 0 acres of cropland and rents about 3,436 acres. Of this acreage, 3,335.7 acres are spreadable. The permit requires all landspreading of manure and process wastewater be completed in accordance with an approved nutrient management plan. The permit will require sampling and analysis of

manure and process wastewater that will be landspread. Landspreading rates must be adjusted based on sample analysis. The permit requires the permittee to maintain a daily log that documents landspreading activities. The permit also requires the submittal of an annual report that summarizes all landspreading activities. Plans must be updated annually to reflect cropping plans and other operational changes. Among the requirements, the plans must include detailed landspreading information including field by field nutrient budgets.

The permittee is required to implement a number of practices to address potential water quality impacts associated with the land application of manure and process wastewater. Among the permit conditions are restrictions on manure ponding, restrictions on runoff of manure and process wastewater from cropped fields, and setbacks from wells and direct conduits to groundwater (e.g., sinkholes, fractured bedrock at the surface). In addition, the permittee must implement a phosphorus based nutrient management plan that addresses phosphorus delivery to surface waters by basing manure and process wastewater applications on soil test phosphorus levels or the Wisconsin Phosphorus index. Additional phosphorus application restrictions apply to fields that are high in soil test phosphorus (>100 ppm).

The permittee must also implement conservation practices when applying manure near navigable waters and their conduits, referred to as the Surface Water Quality Management Area (SWQMA). These practices include a 100-foot setback from navigable waters and their conduits, a 35-foot vegetated buffer adjacent to the navigable water or conduit, or a practice that provides equivalent pollutant reductions equivalent to or better than the 100-foot setback.

In addition, the permittee must comply with restrictions on land application of manure and process wastewater on frozen or snow-covered ground. Included in these restrictions is a prohibition on surface applications of solid manure ($\geq 12\%$ solids) on frozen or snow-covered ground during February and March.

Monitoring and Sampling Requirements

The permittee must submit a monitoring and inspection program that outlines how the permittee will conduct self-inspections to determine compliance with permit conditions. These self-inspections include visual inspections of water lines, diversion devices, storage and containment structures and other parts of the production area. The permit requires periodic inspections and calibrations of landspreading equipment. The permittee must take corrective actions to problems identified in inspections or otherwise notify the Department. Samples of manure, process wastewater and soils receiving land applied materials from the operation must also be collected and analyzed.

Sampling Points

The permit identifies the different sources of land applied materials (e.g., manure storage facilities, milking centers, egg-washing facilities) as "Sampling Points." For these Sampling Points, the permittee is required to sample and analyze the different sources for nutrients and other parameters which serve as the basis for determining rates of application for these materials. Other areas are also identified as Sampling Points as a means of identifying them as areas requiring action by the permittee, such as an upgrade or evaluation of a certain system or structure (e.g., runoff control systems), even though sampling is not actually required.

1.1 Sample Point Number: 001- Old Pit; 002- New Pit; 003- Heifer Pit; 004- Bunker Leachate Pit

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Nitrogen, Total		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Grab	
Nitrogen, Available		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Calculated	
Phosphorus, Total		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Grab	
Phosphorus, Available		lb/1000gal	2/Month	Calculated	
Solids, Total		Percent	2/Month	Grab	

1.1.1 Changes from Previous Permit

- Sample point 001, 002, 003, and 004 language was updated to describe the existing facility more accurately.

1.2 Sample Point Number: 005- Misc. Solid Manure and 007- Manure Stacking Sites

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Nitrogen, Total		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Grab	
Nitrogen, Available		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Calculated	
Phosphorus, Total		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Available		lbs/ton	Quarterly	Calculated	
Solids, Total		Percent	Quarterly	Grab	

1.2.1 Changes from Previous Permit

- None.

1.3 Sample Point Number: 006- Feed Storage Area

1.3.1 Changes from Previous Permit

- Sample point 006 language was updated to describe the existing facility more accurately.

2 Schedules

2.1 Emergency Response Plan

Required Action	Due Date
Develop Emergency Response Plan: Develop a written Emergency Response Plan within 60 days of permit coverage, available to the Department upon request.	10/31/2025

Explanation of Schedules

Permit Schedule 2.1 was included to develop an emergency response plan and is a general permit requirement.

2.2 Monitoring & Inspection Program

Use of the department's monitoring and inspection program template is encouraged, but optional.

Required Action	Due Date
Proposed Monitoring and Inspection Program: Consistent with the Monitoring and Sampling Requirements subsection, the permittee shall submit a proposed monitoring and inspection program within 60 days of the effective date of this permit.	10/31/2025

Explanation of Schedules

Permit Schedule 2.2 was included to develop a monitoring and inspection program to comply with the monitoring permit requirements.

2.3 Annual Reports

Submit Annual Reports by January 31st of each year in accordance with the Annual Reports subsection in Standard Requirements.

Required Action	Due Date
Submit Annual Report #1: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2026
Submit Annual Report #2: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2027
Submit Annual Report #3: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2028
Submit Annual Report #4: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2029

Submit Annual Report #5: To include monitoring and inspection results from the previous 12 months, consistent with the requirements of department form 3400-025E.	01/31/2030
Ongoing Annual Reports: Continue to submit Annual Reports until permit reissuance has been completed.	

Explanation of Schedules

Permit Schedule 2.3 is included to require submittal of annual reports and is a general permit requirement.

2.4 Nutrient Management Plan

Submit annual nutrient management plan (NMP) updates by March 31 of each year. Note, in addition to annual NMP updates, submit NMP amendments and substantial revisions to the department for written approval prior to implementation of any changes to the NMP.

Required Action	Due Date
Submit NMP Update #1: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2026
Submit NMP Update #2: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2027
Submit NMP Update #3: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2028
Submit NMP Update #4: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2029
Submit NMP Update #5: To include actual cropping, tillage, and nutrient application data from the previous calendar or crop year, consistent with the requirements of department for 3400-025D.	03/31/2030
Ongoing Management Plan Annual Updates: Continue to submit Annual Updates to the Nutrient Management Plan until permit reissuance has been completed.	

Explanation of Schedules

Permit Schedule 2.4 is included to require submittal of nutrient management plan updates and is a general permit requirement.

2.5 Submit Permit Reissuance Application

Required Action	Due Date
Reissuance Application: Submit a complete permit reissuance application 180 days prior to permit expiration.	02/28/2030

Explanation of Schedules

Permit Schedule 2.5 is included to require submittal of a WPDES permit reissuance application.

Attachments

- Days of Storage Approval Letter (April 8, 2025)
- Nutrient Management Plan Approval Letter (April 25, 2025)
- Sample Point Map (May 2025)
- Public Notice (May 2025)

Prepared By: Todd Prill Agricultural Runoff Management Specialist

Date: May 23, 2025